Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 610

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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S E C R E T JERUSALEM 876

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF

SUBJ: SIILASVUO'S MARCH 25 TRIP TO LEBANON

REF: STATE 77670

SUMMARY: BOUTROS URGED UNIFIL TO GO TO TYRE, NABATIYA, HASBAYYA AND BEAUFORT CASTLE. SIILASVUO SAID UN PREPARED TO STAY IN TYRE BUT WOULD NOT HAVE FORCES TO GO BEYOND LITANI. GOL UNWILLING REQUEST ADF ADVANCE TO LITANI. ALSO UNABLE GIVE FIRM DATE ON ARRIVAL LEBANESE ARMY OR POLICE IN SOUTH. AGREED TO SEND LEBANESE ELEMENT TO UN TEMPORARY HQ AT NAQOURA. WILL STUDY REINTEGRATION OF HADDAD'S FORCES IN LEBANESE ARMY. END SUMMARY

1. SIILASVUO HAD RATHER HURRIED MEETING MARCH 25 WITH SECRET

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BOURTROS AND KHOURY. BOUTROS URGED UNIFIL TAKE UP POSITIONS IN TYRE, NABATIYA, HASBAYYA AND BEAUFORT CASTLE (SAME REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE BY GUR TO UN MARCH 24). NOTING ACCORDING TO SYG'S REPORT TO SC, UNIFIL'S AREA OF OPERATIONS IS TO BE DETERMINED IN CONSULTATION WITH GOL, SIILASVUO STATED UNIFIL WAS ALREADY IN TYRE. WHILE REMAINDER OF REQUEST WAS TECHNICALLY WITHIN TERMS OF SYG'S REPORT, FACT WAS UNIFIL

WAS JUST NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO CROSS LITANI AS WELL AS OCCUPY AREAS BETWEEN LITANI AND BORDER BEING EVACUATED BY IDF. REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FORCES WOULD REOPEN WHOLE QUESTION OF MANDATE.

- 2. SIILASVUO PRESSED FOR DATE WHEN LEBANESE ARMY AND POLICE UNITS WOULD ARRIVE IN SOUTH. BOUTROS AND KHOURY VAGUELY MENTIONED TWO OR THREE WEEKS. SIILASVUO REFERRED TO EARLIER CONVERSATION ABOUT A PROMISE OF THREE LEBANESE BATTALIONS AND SAID HE STRONGLY HOPED TO HAVE SOME LEBANESE UNITS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON MY MARCH 31 AT THE LATEST. (HE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS, BUT IS NOT OPTIMISTIC.)
- 3. SIILASVUO NOTED DESIRABILITY OF SYRIAN UNITS OF ADF ADVANCING TO LITANI. HE ASKED IF HE COULD INFORM KHADDAM THAT THIS WAS A REQUEST OF GOL. BOUTROS REPLIED, "NO."
- 4. SIILASVUO CITED NUMEROUS PRACTICAL PROBLEMS THAT REQUIRED SOME KIND OF CONTINUING DIRECT GOL GOI CONTACT. BOUTROS SAID THIS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, LEBANESE AGREED TO SUGGESTION THEY SEND OFFICERS TO UN TEMPORARY HQ IN NAQUORA WHERE IDF WOULD ALSO BE PRESENT UNDER UN UMBRELLA.
- 5. AT GUR'S URGING, SIILASVUO SUGGESTED HADDAD'S FORCES BE REINTEGRATED INTO LEBANESE ARMY. BOUTROS AND KHOURY AGREED SECRET

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TO CONSIDER MATTER. AS FOR HADDAD, LEBANESE SAID HE PRESENTED SPECIAL PROBLEM AND GOL WOULD WANT TO KNOW WHY HE BEHAVED AS HE HAD, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD HE ACTED UNDER DURESS.

- 6. LEBANESE ALSO SHOWED GREAT CONCERN OVER RETURN OF REFUGEES TO SOUTH. AT SIILASVUO'S URGING THEY AGREED TO A SECOND MEETING WITH IDF AND PROMISED TO COME EQUIPPED WITH SPECIFIC PLANS AND BETTER ESTIMATES AS TO NUMBERS.
- 7. COMMENT: SIILASVUO FULLY SHARES OUR DESIRE (REFTEL) THAT GOL ASSUME AS MUCH RESPONSIBILITY FOR RELATIONS WITH PALESTINIANS, CHRISTIANS AND OTHER PERSONS IN SOUTH LEBANON AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. HE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS LEBANESE ON THIS POINT, BUT HE IS NOT SANGUINE GOL IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE ARMY AND POLICE UNITS IN ANY SIZE VERY SOON. SYRIANS ALSO INDICATED SKEPTICISM ON THIS POINT (SEPTEL.) APPARENTLY, NEITHER LEBANESE NOR SIILASVUO RAISED PLO.

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